

## **SCHOOL BOARD WORK SESSION**

### **Portsmouth Middle School**

8/5/2008 6:30 PM

Council Chambers, City Hall

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School Board Members Present: Dr. Mitchell Shuldman (Chair), Mr. Brendan Ristaino (Vice Chair), Ms. Rebecca Emerson, Ms. Ann Walker, Mr. Dexter Legg, Mr. Kent Lapage, Ms. Lisa Sweet, Ms. Leslie Stevens, Ms. Sheri Ham Garrity.

School Board Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Dr. Robert J. Lister, (Superintendent of Schools), Mr. Stephen Zadavec (Assistant Superintendent), Mr. Stephen Bartlett, (Business Administrator), Mr. John Stokel (Middle School Principal), Mr. Rus Wilson (Athletic Director), Ms. Helen Maldini (SAU 50), Ms. Robin McIntosh, Mr. Jim Laposte (JCJ Architects), Ms. Lisa Distefano, Mr. Jeff Doug (JCJ Architects) and Ann Mayer (School Board Chair, Greenland)

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#### **I. Call to Order**

Dr. Mitchell Shuldman called the work session to order at 6:35 PM.

#### **II. Introduction**

Chair Shuldman said the purpose of the work session was to understand the size needed for the new middle school in order to fully support Portsmouth's particular curricular and athletic needs. He then turned the floor over to Ms. Robin McIntosh for a brief announcement.

#### **III. Focus – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade photo and book project**

Ms. McIntosh wished to thank the business community, Mr. John Stokel, (Portsmouth Middle School principal), middle school staff members and Ms. Leslie Stevens, (Board member and parent) for their assistance in the creation of her recently published book Focus. The students took 13,000 photos total. Certain photos that were not chosen for the book will be included in a time capsule the Portsmouth Public Library is preparing. 100 years from now, the photos may be used as a curriculum piece for future 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. Although this project will not be repeated next year, the middle school now has 54 cameras for students to sign out in the library and mini projects can now be incorporated into the curriculum.

#### **IV. JCJ Architects – PMS Update**

Mr. Jim LaPosta from JCJ Architects opened by stating direction had been obtained from the Superintendent and by touring two newly constructed local middle schools that helped better clarify what is needed to fully support Portsmouth Middle School's particular size and curriculum needs.

With clearer direction on particular needs, JCJ Architects were able to shave 20,000 square feet and \$6.2 million off the initial proposal. The new design reduces the size from 154,000 to 134,000 square feet and reduced preliminary construction cost from \$46.7 million to \$40.5 million with most of the changes happening on the first floor and overall site plan.

The new addition would be scaled back to close the site in tighter. This would now provide 77 of the 100 needed parking spaces along the side of the building and for 14 to 15 buses to loop around the school for drop off and pick up; still keeping buses separated from cars during drop off and pick up.

The first floor would receive most of the design changes. The center of the school where the cafeteria, stage, choral room and exterior courtyard are located would now serve multi-purposes. The auditorium would be able to accommodate approximately 150 people. The second and third floors would receive minimal changes. Simply reducing the overall size of new construction resulted in a \$169,000 reduction in piling costs.

Eliminations in the new design were team conference rooms with faculty rooms now serving double duty. Athletic team locker rooms have been eliminated and will now be using the same locker room as gym classes during the day. FACS cooking labs will now be incorporated into the classroom and scaled down.

Middle School Principal John Stokel spoke to board members about the particular needs of Portsmouth Middle School students and teachers. The amount of unified art space is unique to PMS when compared to other middle schools but is also what sets Portsmouth apart from other districts by allowing students to experience all unified arts all three years.

#### **VIII. Questions and Discussion**

Several Board members thanked JCJ Architects and Lisa Destefano for listening carefully to their concerns and coming up with the new design. A discussion followed with Mr. John Stokel about what a "team" consisted of, a typical day's schedule and what his thoughts were on space issues and the overall new design. Mr. Stokel approved of the new design and believed all that could be eliminated had been. Board members then asked for clarity from Mr. Stokel on certain programs such as unified arts, foreign language, special education and the K.I.D.S. (Kids In a Democratic Society) programs.

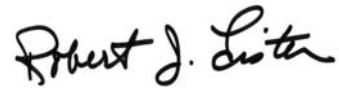
**IX. Actions Taken**

There were no actions taken.

**X. Adjournment**

At 8:45 p.m., Dr. Mitchell Shuldman closed the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert J. Lister". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "R".

Dr. Robert J. Lister  
Superintendent of Schools